

**ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES
NEWS RELEASE**



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**2012 Kuskokwim River Salmon Fishery News Release 15
Kuskokwim River Subdistrict 1-A and Subdistrict 1-B to open for Commercial Salmon
Fishing**

This is an announcement from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game in Bethel for subsistence and commercial salmon fishermen in the Kuskokwim Management Area.

Subdistrict 1-A

Subdistrict 1-A within District 1 will open to commercial salmon fishing for 4 hours from 12:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m. on Monday, July 16, 2012. The following area of the Kuskokwim River mainstem between ADF&G regulatory markers located at the upstream side of the mouth of the Tuluksak River with its confluence of the Kuskokwim River downstream to ADF&G regulatory markers located upstream of Mishevik Slough is closed to commercial salmon fishing. Salmon may be taken only with 6-inch or smaller mesh gillnets not exceeding 50 fathoms in length.

Processing capacity for this commercial fishing period is limited. Fishermen are reminded to register with Kuskokwim Seafoods (543-5700) prior to fishing.

The hours for subsistence closures adjacent to periods of commercial fishing on the Kuskokwim River are 6 hours before, during, and 3 hours after commercial fishing. The area closed to subsistence fishing includes the Subdistrict open to commercial fishing and a buffer area of the adjacent Subdistrict. Therefore, from 6:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m. on Monday, July 16, subsistence salmon fishing in the Kuskokwim River will be closed from Bogus Creek downstream to line between Oscarville and Napaskiak.

Subdistrict 1-B

The Lower Section of Subdistrict 1-B, that portion of District 1 from a line between ADF&G regulatory markers located approximately 15 miles downstream of the Johnson River to the lower boundary of District 1 defined as a line from Apokak Slough to the southernmost tip of Eek Island to Popokamiut will open to commercial salmon fishing for 6 hours from 10:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, July 17, 2012.

The Upper Section of Subdistrict 1-B, that portion of District 1 downstream of regulatory markers located at Bethel to ADF&G regulatory markers located approximately 15 miles downstream of Johnson River, will open to commercial salmon fishing for 4 hours from 12:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, July 17, 2012.

The hours for subsistence closures adjacent to periods of commercial fishing on the Kuskokwim River are 6 hours before, during, and 3 hours after commercial fishing. The area closed to subsistence fishing includes the Subdistrict open to commercial fishing and a buffer area of the adjacent Subdistrict. Therefore, from 6:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, July 17, subsistence salmon fishing in the Kuskokwim River will be closed from the upper end of Straight Slough downstream to the mouth, defined by a line from Apokak Slough to the southern-most tip of Eek Island to Popokamiut.

Fish processors have verbally agreed not to purchase Chinook salmon harvested during commercial openings. Any Chinook salmon caught must be retained for subsistence or personal use. Fish retained for subsistence or personal use from a commercial fishery must be reported and recorded in the space provided on an ADF&G fish ticket.

Preliminary harvest information from the Friday, July 13, commercial period in Subdistrict 1-B was 16,270 chum; 1,041 sockeye; 20 coho; and 96 Chinook salmon from 151 permit holders. Salmon run assessment information indicates a harvestable surplus of chum salmon.

Further announcements will be made from the Bethel ADF&G office, on the state web site (<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=cfnews.main>), and local radio stations. News releases will be faxed to area villages and local fish processing companies.

For additional information concerning this news release:

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